

In the Claims:

Please add the following claim 65 and amend claims 39, 40, 41, 44, 45, 52, 53, 54, 57 and 58:

Claims 1 to 38 (cancelled).

39.(currently amended) An absorber pipe, especially for a parabolic collector in a solar heat collecting apparatus, said absorber pipe comprising

a central metal pipe (3);

a glass sleeve tube (2) surrounding said central metal pipe (3) so that an annular space (4) is formed between the central metal pipe and the glass sleeve tube (2);

a glass-metal transitional element (5) on a free end of the glass sleeve tube; and

an expansion compensating device (10) connecting the central metal pipe and the glass-metal transitional element (5) with each other so as to be slidable relative to each other in a longitudinal direction and to guarantee a vacuum-tight seal between the free end of the glass sleeve tube and the central metal pipe;

wherein said expansion compensating device (10) comprises a folding bellows (11) and a connecting element (15, 15', 15''), said folding bellows (11) is arranged between under the glass-metal transitional element (5) and the central metal pipe (3), said folding bellows (11) extends into said annular space (4), said folding bellows (11) has an outer outside end (13) and an inner interior end (12),

said ~~inner interior~~-end (12) being arranged within the annular space (4), and said ~~inner interior~~-end (12) of said folding bellows (11) is connected to one end of said connecting element (15, 15', 15");

wherein another end of said connecting element (15, 15', 15") opposite to the one end connected to the folding bellows (11) is either connected to the central metal pipe (3) or to the glass-metal transitional element (5); and

wherein said folding bellows (11) and said connecting element (15, 15', 15") extend sufficiently into the annular space (4) and between the glass sleeve tube (2) and the central metal pipe (3), so that said glass-metal transitional element (5) is protected from radiation which would otherwise reach the glass-metal transitional element (5) after entering the glass sleeve tube (2).

40.(currently amended) The absorber pipe as defined in claim 39, wherein the ~~outer outside~~-end (13) of the folding bellows (11) is connected with the glass sleeve tube (2) by the glass-metal transitional element (5).

41.(currently amended) The absorber pipe as defined in claim 40, wherein the connecting element (15, 15") extends from said ~~inner interior~~-end (12) of the folding bellows (11) through a first circular space (8) formed between the folding bellows (11) and the central metal pipe (3).

42.(previously presented) The absorber pipe as defined in claim 41, wherein the connecting element (15, 15") has a circular disk (16) attached to the folding

bellows (11) and said circular disk (16) goes over into a conical or cylindrical pipe-shaped section (17, 18') extending through the first circular space (5).

43.(previously presented) The absorber pipe as defined in claim 41, wherein the connecting element (15, 15') is provided at least partially with a mirror surface on a side facing said central metal pipe (3).

44.(currently amended) The absorber pipe as defined in claim 39, wherein the inner interior-end (12') of the folding bellows (11) is connected with the glass sleeve tube (2) by the connecting element (15') and by the glass-metal transitional element (5).

45.(currently amended) The absorber pipe as defined in claim 44, wherein the connecting element (15') extends from said inner interior-end of the folding bellows (11) through a second circular space (9) formed between the folding ~~following~~ bellows (11) and the sleeve tube (2).

46.(previously presented) The absorber pipe as defined in claim 45, wherein said connecting element (15') comprises a circular disk (16) attached to said folding bellows (11) and said circular disk (16) goes over into a pipe-shaped cylindrical section (18) extending through said second circular space (9).

47.(previously presented) The absorber pipe as defined in claim 44, wherein said glass-metal transitional element (5) is attached to an outer collar (19) formed on said connecting element (15').

48.(previously presented) The absorber pipe as defined in claim 44, wherein the connecting element (15') is provided at least partially with a mirror surface on a side facing said central metal pipe (3).

49.(previously presented) The absorber pipe as defined in claim 39, further comprising another glass-metal transitional element (5) arranged on another end of the glass sleeve tube (2) opposite from the free end of the glass sleeve tube (2) and another expansion compensating device (10) connecting the central metal pipe and said another glass-metal transitional element (5) with each other, so as to be slidable relative to each other in a longitudinal direction and to guarantee a vacuum-tight seal between said another end of the glass sleeve tube and the central metal pipe.

50.(previously presented) The absorber pipe as defined in claim 39, wherein said annular space (4) is evacuated.

51.(previously presented) The absorber pipe as defined in claim 39, wherein said annular space (4) is filled with a noble gas.

52.(currently amended) A parabolic collector for a solar heat collecting apparatus, said parabolic collector comprising a longitudinally extending linear parabolic reflector (PR) having a focal line (FL) and at least one absorber pipe (1) arranged along said focal line;

wherein said at least one absorber pipe (1) comprises a central metal pipe (3), a glass sleeve tube (2) surrounding said central metal pipe (3) so that an annular space (4) is formed between the central metal pipe and the glass sleeve tube (2), a glass-metal transitional element (5) on a free end of the glass sleeve tube and an expansion compensating device (10) connecting the central metal pipe and the glass-metal transitional element (5) with each other so as to be slidable relative to each other in a longitudinal direction and to guarantee a vacuum-tight seal between the free end of the glass sleeve tube and the central metal pipe;

wherein said expansion compensating device (10) comprises a folding bellows (11) and a connecting element (15, 15', 15''), said folding bellows (11) is arranged between under the glass-metal transitional element (5) and the central metal pipe (3), said folding bellows (11) extends into said annular space (4), said folding bellows (11) has an outer outside-end (13) and an inner interior-end (12), said inner interior-end (12) being arranged within the annular space (4), and said inner interior-end (12) of said folding bellows (11) is connected to one end of said connecting element (15, 15', 15'');

wherein another end of said connecting element (15, 15', 15'') opposite to the one end connected to the folding bellows (11) is either connected to the central metal pipe (3) or to the glass-metal transitional element (5); and

wherein said folding bellows (11) and said connecting element (15, 15', 15'') extend sufficiently into the annular space (4) and between the glass sleeve tube (2) and the central metal pipe (3), so that said glass-metal transitional element (5) is protected from radiation which would otherwise reach the glass-metal transitional element (5) after entering the glass sleeve tube (2).

53.(currently amended) The parabolic collector as defined in claim 52, wherein the outer ~~outside~~-end (13) of the folding bellows (11) is connected with the glass sleeve tube (2) by the glass-metal transitional element (5).

54.(currently amended) The parabolic collector as defined in claim 53, wherein the connecting element (15, 15'') extends from said inner ~~interior~~-end (12) of the folding bellows (11) through a first circular space (8) formed between the folding bellows (11) and the central metal pipe (3).

55.(previously presented) The parabolic collector as defined in claim 54, wherein the connecting element (15, 15'') has a circular disk (16) attached to the folding bellows (11) and said circular disk (16) goes over into a conical or cylindrical pipe-shaped section (17, 18') extending through the first circular space (5).

56.(previously presented) The parabolic collector as defined in claim 54, wherein the connecting element (15, 15") is provided at least partially with a mirror surface on a side facing said central metal pipe (3).

57.(currently amended) The parabolic collector as defined in claim 52, wherein the inner interior-end (12) of the folding bellows (11) is connected with the glass sleeve tube (2) by the connecting element (15') and the glass-metal transitional element (5).

58.(currently amended) The parabolic collector as defined in claim 57, wherein the connecting element (15') extends from said inner interior-end of the folding bellows (11) through a second circular space (9) formed between the folding following-bellows (11) and the sleeve tube (2).

59.(previously presented) The parabolic collector as defined in claim 58, wherein said connecting element (15') has a circular disk (16) attached to said folding bellows (11) and said circular disk (16) goes over into a pipe-shaped cylindrical section (18) extending through said second circular space (9).

60.(previously presented) The parabolic collector as defined in claim 57, wherein said glass-metal transitional element (5) is attached to an outer collar (19) formed on said connecting element (15').

61.(previously presented) The parabolic collector as defined in claim 57, wherein the connecting element (15') is provided at least partially with a mirror surface on a side facing said central metal pipe (3).

62.(previously presented) The parabolic collector as defined in claim 52, wherein the at least one absorber tube includes another glass-metal transitional element (5) arranged on another end of the glass sleeve tube (2) opposite from the free end of the glass sleeve tube (2) and another expansion compensating device (10) connecting the central metal pipe and said another glass-metal transitional element (5) with each other, so as to be slidable relative to each other in a longitudinal direction and to guarantee a vacuum-tight seal between said another end of the glass sleeve tube and the central metal pipe.

63.(previously presented) The absorber pipe as defined in claim 52, wherein said annular space (4) is evacuated.

64.(previously presented) The absorber pipe as defined in claim 52, wherein said annular space (4) is filled with a noble gas.

65.(new) An absorber pipe, especially for a parabolic collector in a solar heat collecting apparatus, said absorber pipe comprising
a central metal pipe (3);

a glass sleeve tube (2) surrounding said central metal pipe (3) so that an annular space (4) is formed between the central metal pipe and the glass sleeve tube (2);

a glass-metal transitional element (5) on a free end of the glass sleeve tube; and

an expansion compensating device (10) connecting the central metal pipe and the glass-metal transitional element (5) with each other so as to be slidable relative to each other in a longitudinal direction and to guarantee a vacuum-tight seal between the free end of the glass sleeve tube and the central metal pipe;

wherein said expansion compensating device (10) comprises a folding bellows (11) and a connecting element (15, 15', 15''), said folding bellows (11) is arranged between the glass-metal transitional element (5) and the central metal pipe (3), said folding bellows (11) extends in the longitudinal direction into said annular space (4), said folding bellows (11) has an outer end (13) and an inner end (12), said inner end (12) being arranged within the annular space (4), and said inner end (12) of said folding bellows (11) is connected to one end of said connecting element (15, 15', 15'');

wherein another end of said connecting element (15, 15', 15'') opposite to the one end connected to the folding bellows (11) is either connected to the central metal pipe (3) or to the glass-metal transitional element (5);

wherein said connecting element (15, 15', 15'') either extends in the longitudinal direction between the bellows (11) and the central metal pipe (3) or between the bellows (11) and the glass sleeve tube (2); and

wherein said folding bellows (11) and said connecting element (15, 15', 15'') extend sufficiently into the annular space (4) and between the glass sleeve tube (2) and the central metal pipe (3), so that said glass-metal transitional element (5) is protected from radiation which would otherwise reach the glass-metal transitional element (5) after entering the glass sleeve tube (2).